



Richard Fredrick Irvin

January 1, 1930 - October 17, 2015

Richard (Dick) Irvin, 85 of Corvallis died Saturday, October 17th. He was born in McIntyre, Pennsylvania, but spent most of his early years in Portage, Pa. Dick attended Slippery Rock College where he earned a bachelor's degree in Health and Physical Education. He met his future wife, Jean there in 1952.

The Army called and he spent 2 years in Korea and Japan. While in Japan he was the sports director for Northern Japan. Dick and Jean were married in 1956 in Ridgewood, New Jersey. They spent 2 years in Columbus, Ohio where he obtained his Physical Therapy Certification. They moved to Normal, Illinois where their three children were born. Dick taught activity class at Illinois Wesleyan and then obtained a master's degree at Illinois State University. At ISU he started his career teaching athletic training. The family moved to Oregon where Dick obtained his doctorate degree in education.

The family fell in love with Oregon and the following year Dick obtained a position at Oregon State University. He enjoyed teaching many activity classes but his main love was teaching the athletic training program. He was a pioneer member of NATA and enjoyed being part of their development and growth over the years.

Running was one of his favorite activities. He ran many marathons and really enjoyed telling stories about fun and friends he made during these events. His

first passion was baseball. He played for an American League team in Ebensburg, Pennsylvania and for the Industrial League in Benscreek, Pennsylvania. These teams were usually from small mining towns and their fans were very loyal. This is where he really developed his love of the game.

Dick is survived by his wife of 59 years, Jean; three children son, David Irvin of Stevensville, MT; daughter, Denise Irvin of Albany, Oregon, son, Dean Irvin and Veronica Thompson of Folsom, CA; two brothers and their wives Al and Rita Irvin of Eagle Lake, FL, Bill and Pat Irvin of The Villages, FL; two grandchildren Kaleigh Walker and Nick Irvin and many nieces and nephews.

The World Series this year will miss one of its biggest fans.

Private family services will be held.

Tribute Wall

MW

“ To the Irvin Family, I express my sympathy in losing your Husband/Father. I did not know your Father, but I am an Athletic Trainer and a Slippery Rock Grad, BS 88, MS 95. When reading the NATA news, it drew my attention that we lost a Slippery Rock alum. I talked with a classmate and she shared with me that Dick co-authored our Care and Prevention text book, I was embarrassed that I did not put the two together. That book still sits in my library and will be with me to the end. Slippery Rock was a huge boulder of my life and Athletic Training is who I am. I hope you can find peace in all the lives that were influenced by his contribution to Athletic Training.

Sincerely, Mark Wagner

Mark Wagner - February 18, 2016 at 05:04 PM

DR

“ I never knew Richard directly, but I did learn a ton from him by reading his textbook over my lunch hour during my summer job back in the 80's when I was a student. When I read of his passing I felt a great sadness for him and his family. Please know that he impacted many people during his career as an ATC. I hope I can do the same and I always give credit to Richard for starting me off in the field of athletic training. I still look at his textbook from time to time to remember where I got my start. I wish I could have shook his hand and told him directly how much he helped me in my career.

Dan Ruffner

Daniel Ruffner - February 18, 2016 at 03:11 PM

DK

“ I knew Dick from our work/collegial interactions when I was Assistant Athletic Trainer at Univ of Oregon, assisted in teaching along with Lou Osternig in our Athletic Training program and from serving on the Professional Education Committee of the NATA circa 1975-80. I know Dick loved teaching and sports and was an avid runner. We often debated on topics concerning athletic training education and I enjoyed his wit, affable personality and professional demeanor. I used the Athletic Training book he co-authored with Steven Roy for many years in Athletic Training Education and in the outpatient clinic after I became a physical therapist. Dick enjoyed life and he was a great advocate for sports and athletic training. I am happy to say I knew him and know he will be missed by family, friends and athletic training colleagues. May God bless you Jean and family during this difficult time. Know that he was a blessing to many. Dave Knoeppel Psalm 46:1

David Knoeppel - February 16, 2016 at 10:50 PM

JG

“ I just saw Dick's obit in the NATA news. He was a great colleague and the ultimate professional. I served w/ him on a number of NATA committees and always enjoyed our relationship. I've retired from UVa, 10 years now. Time certainly flies.

Life is about people and Dick certainly enriched mine.

My sympathies to you and your family.

Joe Gieck

joe gieck - February 16, 2016 at 09:50 AM

MW

“ I met Mr. Irvin by chance at an NATA national meeting. He and I had dinner together in Kansas City at a family event. We began talking about the athletic training profession and before long we exchanged contact information. As a young professional, I valued meeting and connecting with someone who had enjoyed such a successful career. Much to my surprise he sent me letters of encouragement over the next few years. We exchanged letters for a short time and I have shared this memory with many of my students over the years. Dick Irvin was one of a kind and our profession and my life are both blessed to have known him.

My sincere condolences,

Michael S. Weller

Michael Weller - February 10, 2016 at 02:53 PM

HL

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Harry Lagerstedt - October 26, 2015 at 12:28 PM

DC

“ I knew Dick for the short time when we shared a dining table at The Regent and Dick kept all of us up-to-date on sports. He and I enjoyed talking about the Mariners and how they could never get things going and have a successful season. One vivid memory of Dick was when he would slap the table and then say “bring it on” to let us know he was ready for whatever was coming. I am glad I was able to know Dick and wish Jean and her family all the best and happy memories as they talk sports in the future.

Dorothy Chambers

Dorothy Chambers - October 24, 2015 at 12:18 PM

BD

“ We are sorry for your loss and want you to know that you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. Best to you always, Bill and June Daley

Bill and June Daley - October 23, 2015 at 05:52 PM

KN

“ We remember Dick as our neighbor and friend. Many conversations in the driveways, on walks, and George and Dick's meetings at Timberhill. We send our sincere sympathy to the Irvins at this time of loss.

Kay and George Novak

Kay Novak - October 23, 2015 at 12:26 PM

DE

“ I have fond memories of conversations I had with Dick when he was at OSU and I was working for Corvallis Parks and Recreation. That was followed by more chats after retirement when we saw each other at Timberhill. My condolences to the entire Irvin Family.
Dan Eden

Dan Eden - October 23, 2015 at 10:52 AM

AH

“ I will always be grateful to and for Dick. Many (35?) years ago, He started the "Back Clinic" in the OSU staff fitness program. The clinic met weekly, and I enrolled because I already had chronic low back pain, though I was still young, only 35 or so. Dick's patient instructions started me on the path to full recovery, which I still enjoy today.
Best wishes to all his family and friends,
- Jane Huyer

Adriana Huyer - October 23, 2015 at 09:45 AM

 Sandy Hug

“ thinking of you and all your family, Jean. It is so hard to lose a spouse. Even when you know it's coming, it still seems a surprise, when they are suddenly gone. My heart is with you. So good to have family to help you.
If you come down to So. NV this winter...or going thru that way, give a shout.
Hope the memories you keep of Dick are all the good times. When I think of him, I specially think of his baseball collection and love of baseball. Another great memory is him playing pickleball.....in his 80's. My hero! You, too, my friend.
Here's a hug to you.....Sandy Hug

Sandy Hug - October 22, 2015 at 09:37 PM

BS

“ Dear Jean and family,

I really only knew Dick personally through Jean and our shared love of running, but I also knew him through his reputation as a person, a sportsman, and an educator. I enjoyed being in his company. He was a fine man. Jean was one of my favorite colleagues, and a friend to all who knew her. My heartfelt condolences go to her.

*With best wishes,
Bill Siebler*

Bill Siebler - October 22, 2015 at 05:38 PM

RC

“ Hey Irvins, I have a ton of memories of Dick, many of them are still like voices in my head, and not little voices, more like really loud voices :)

He was a great guy and I know my dad and he shared a common attitude toward many things. From my dad's stories, many of their retired hours were spent on Marysville golf course near Avery park, where by the 15th hole they'd start trying to figure out 'what the heck to do' when they finished their golf round!

I'm happy to have had a chance to check in on Jean and Dick a few years ago at their Stoneybrook house, and Dick immediately led me back to his 'office', i.e. baseball shrine, where he detailed me on his latest baseball 'camp', at which he was able to bat against Nolan Ryan. I think "Fouled a couple off" was how it went down in the 'unofficial' box score.

Best wishes, Rich Cramer

rich cramer - October 22, 2015 at 03:23 PM

MS

“ Dear Jean and family;

I am sorry to hear of Dick's passing. I was fortunate to have logged many miles with him jogging around Corvallis in the '80's as well as sharing many baseball stories including recaps of his at-bats in the senior league.

Dick was always kind and engaging with me, and I will cherish the fond memories. Those of us who were fortunate to have shared in his life will forever carry a piece of him around with us in our minds and hearts. I know those memories will bring smiles to all of you as you cope with the sorrow of the loss.

*Warm regards,
Mike Sheets*

Mike Sheets - October 21, 2015 at 12:58 PM